



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending May 16, 2015

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending May 16, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported both by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments decreased slightly. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI also dipped slightly. The percentage of specimens testing positive at clinical laboratories dropped, as did the number of specimens testing positive at the DHMH lab. A total of 5 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. No respiratory outbreaks were reported. Nationally, influenza activity continued to decline.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

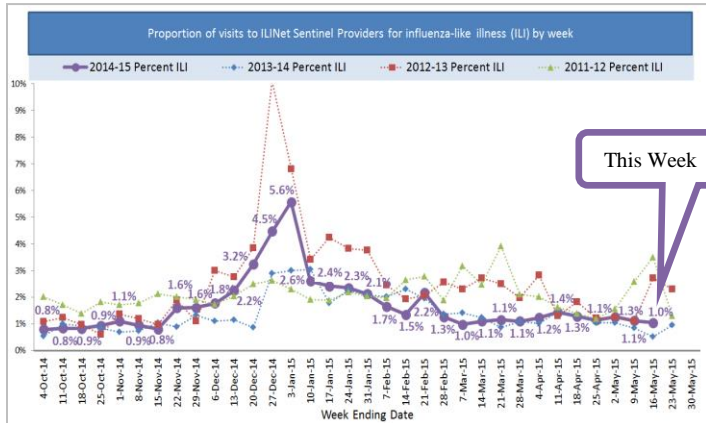
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

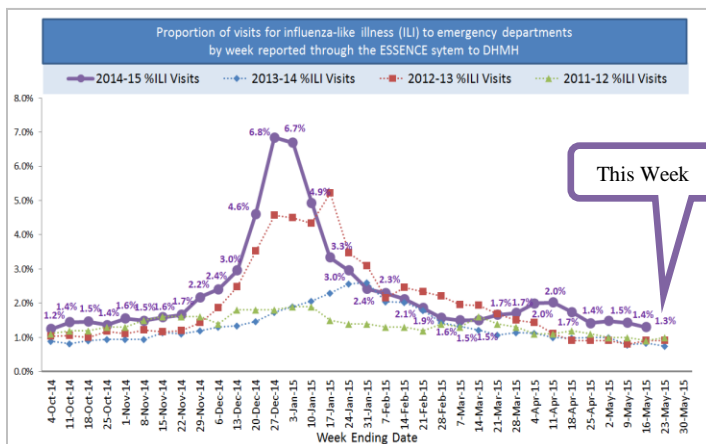
Twenty-four sentinel providers reported a total of 8,983 visits this week. Of those, 94 (1.0%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	26 (28%)	30 (24%)	1488 (24%)
Age 5-24	34 (36%)	54 (43%)	2442 (40%)
Age 25-49	18 (19%)	22 (17%)	1327 (22%)
Age 50-64	9 (10%)	16 (13%)	589 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (7%)	4 (3%)	277 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	94 (100%)	126 (100%)	6123 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 50,814 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 661 (1.3%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	196 (30%)	232 (32%)	9088 (25%)
Age 5-24	218 (33%)	251 (34%)	11109 (31%)
Age 25-49	147 (22%)	155 (21%)	9447 (26%)
Age 50-64	68 (10%)	63 (9%)	3811 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	32 (5%)	34 (5%)	2720 (8%)
Unknown	--	--	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	661 (100%)	735 (100%)	36178(100%)

Other states' influenza information:

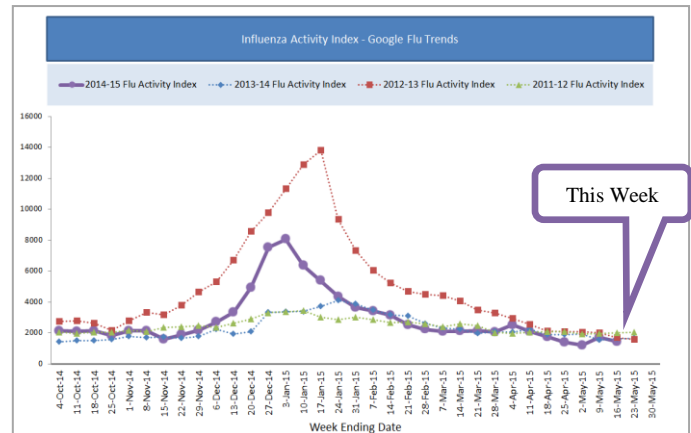
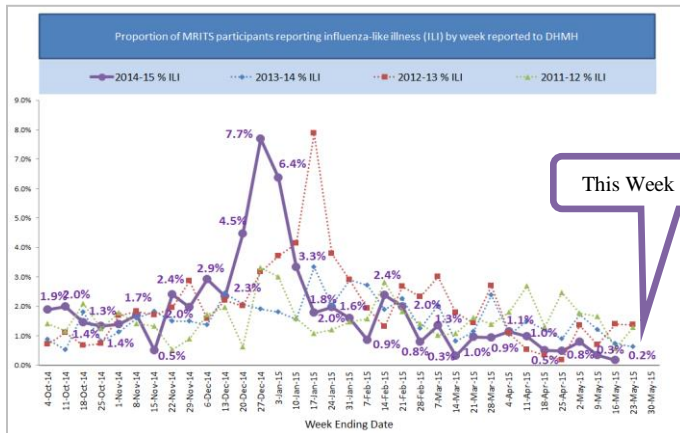
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending May 16, 2015

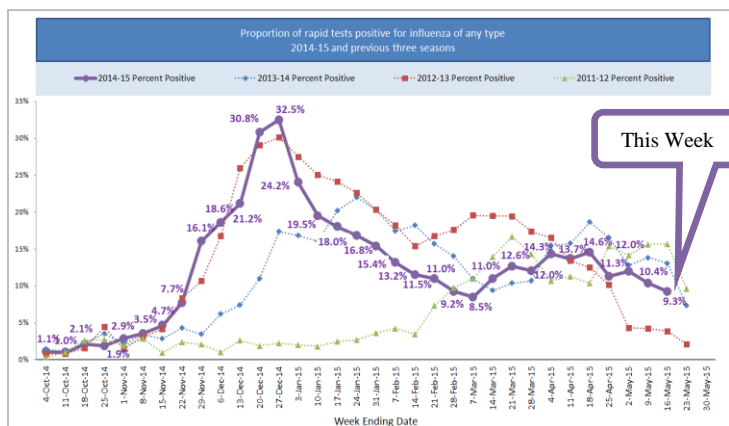
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 597 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 1 (0.2%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 2 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

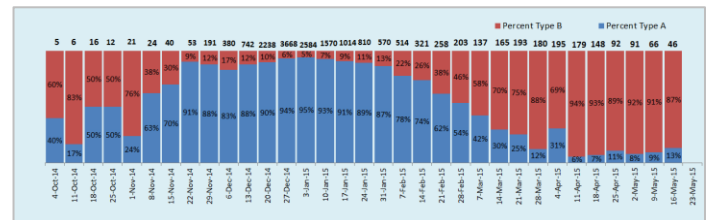


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty clinical laboratories reported performing 496 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 46 (9.3%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 6 (13.0%) were influenza Type A and 40 (87.0%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

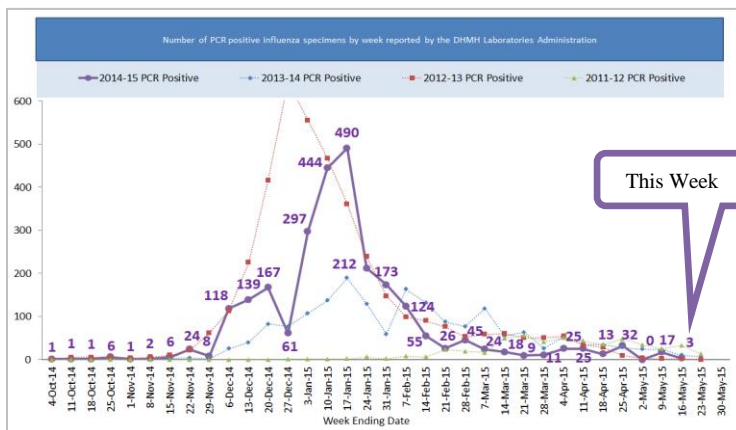


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	6 (13%)	6 (9%)	13929 (83%)
Type B	40 (87%)	60 (91%)	2798 (17%)
Total	46 (100%)	66 (100%)	16727 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 33 PCR tests for influenza and 3 (9.1%) specimens were positive. All were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	6 (<1%)
Type A (H3)	--	--	2384 (92%)
Type B	3 (100%)	17 (100%)	186 (7%)
A (H3) - B Dual Infection	--	--	2 (<1%)
Total	3 (100%)	17 (100%)	2578 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

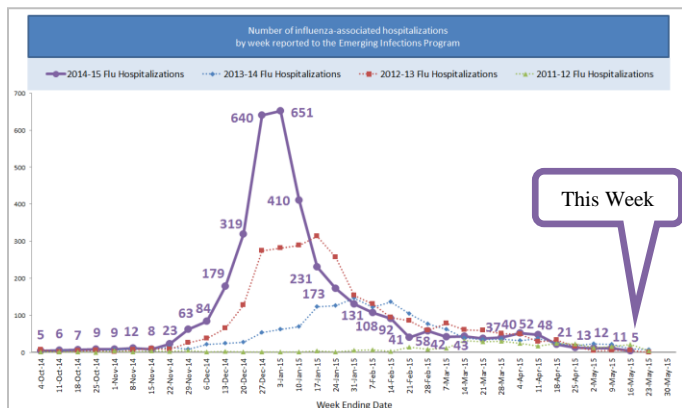
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending May 16, 2015

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

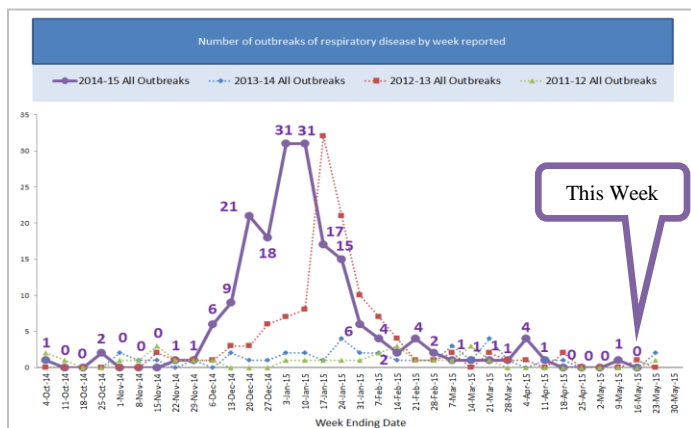
A total of 5 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	177 (5%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (9%)	92 (3%)
Age 18-24	--	--	76 (2%)
Age 25-49	--	--	386 (11%)
Age 50-64	2 (40%)	3 (27%)	601 (17%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (60%)	7 (64%)	2251 (63%)
Total	5 (100%)	11 (100%)	3583 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	126 (70%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	1 (100%)	37 (20%)
Pneumonia	--	--	18 (10%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	181 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

Influenza surveillance updates for the United States are posted online every Friday on the CDC website. Due to the State offices being closed on Friday, May 22, 2015, this report is being published before this week’s national updates are available. If you wish to see this week’s national surveillance update, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly> on or after Friday, May 22.